

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: AUGUST 19, 2009

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**DIRECTOR: M. MARGO WHEELER**☐ **Consent** ☒ **Discussion****SUBJECT:**

Discussion and possible action regarding an agreement between the City of Las Vegas and Green Chips for the purpose of funding a pilot program to perform energy audits and retrofits for low income households and a non-profit organization (\$90,000 – Green Building Special Revenue Fund/Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant) - All Wards

Fiscal Impact☐**No Impact**☐**Augmentation Required**☒**Budget Funds Available****Amount:** 90,000**Funding Source:** Green Building Special Revenue Fund; Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant**Dept./Division:** Planning & Development**PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:**

The goals of the Pilot Program are that an energy audit and retrofit will be performed for one (1) non-profit organization and for ten (10) homes occupied by low income participants which will be administered by Green Chips. Green Chips is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to leverage the combined resources of public agencies and the private sector to develop green programs that directly and immediately benefit the community and its citizens. This agreement will provide resources that serve as a catalyst for Green Chips to secure additional resources in pursuit of its objectives held in common with the City to create and promote a sustainable Las Vegas. Partnering with Green Chips to launch a pilot program for home energy audits and subsequent home improvements based on audit recommendations will achieve goals established under the Sustainable Energy Strategy to reduce the City's carbon footprint and implement conservation programs involving the community. The Sustainable Energy Strategy, R-50-2008, was adopted by the Las Vegas City Council on September 3rd, 2008.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Agreement between the City of Las Vegas and the Green Chips
2. Disclosure of Principals
3. Submitted at Meeting – Contact Information of Ivo Plecko

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Motion made by GARY REESE to Approve

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

RICKI Y. BARLOW, LOIS TARKANIAN, STEVE WOLFSON, OSCAR B. GOODMAN, GARY REESE, STEVEN D. ROSS, STAVROS S. ANTHONY; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

NOTE: MAYOR GOODMAN disclosed that he is the President of Green Chips and receives no compensation for that position; therefore, he would vote on this matter. COUNCILMAN ROSS disclosed he is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council and represents UA Local 525. CITY ATTORNEY BRAD JERBIC observed that UA Local 525 is donating labor to the Shade Tree and is not being compensated; therefore, COUNCILMAN ROSS does not have a conflict of interest and may vote on this matter.

Minutes:

TOM PERRIGO, Deputy Director of the Planning and Development Department, noted that the City had adopted the Sustainable Energy Strategy in September 2009 and one component of that Strategy was to invest in energy retrofits and audits. The benefits of retrofits include creating jobs, saving electricity, reducing greenhouse gases and improving internal air quality. This funding agreement will support educational outreach and financing and, through Green Chips, will provide energy audits and retrofits to low-income households and non-profit organizations.

MARLENE RICHTER, Executive Director for Shade Tree Shelter for Women, Children & Their Pets, explained that the annual utility expense for the facility is \$68,199 and \$8,800 for the animal shelter. Green Chips and this pilot program will provide an energy audit for both buildings and a reduction of five percent in energy consumption is expected from energy retrofits and adaptations. As a non-profit organization, Shade Tree strives for the most efficient and effective use of funds and, through donated labor and reduced rate products, Shade Tree will be able to substantially increase its facilities' energy savings. These savings will help Shade Tree continue to provide shelter for women and children in crisis.

MAYOR GOODMAN stated that the City's partnership with Green Chips will allow Las Vegas to become the Sustainability Capital of the World and he acknowledged MR. PERRIGO'S hard work on this program. COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN and COUNCILMAN ROSS concurred. MAYOR GOODMAN also noted the incredible support for this program from the private sector.

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY stated the pilot program is a great project, but expressed concern with how the money would be spent and tracked and how any energy savings would be measured once the retrofits are completed. MR. PERRIGO explained that the grants are monitored closely and the terms of the agreement are very specific. When the energy audit is conducted, energy recommendations are made regarding specific retrofits and the estimated energy savings. When the retrofits are complete, the facility is evaluated to determine the actual energy savings.

Follow-up education with the building owner will continue to ensure the energy savings will be maintained over time. COUNCILMAN ANTHONY and COUNCILMAN ROSS requested a

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report on the results from the pilot program.

EDGAR PATINO, NV Energy, appeared on behalf of GREG KERN, NV Energy Director of Energy Efficiency, who could not attend this meeting and expressed support for this initiative. MR. PERRIGO noted that MR. KERN serves on the Board of Trustess for Green Chips.

CYNTHIA BACA, Executive Director of Rebuilding Together Southern Nevada (RTSNV), stated this volunteer organization is proud to partner with Green Chips. RTSNV rehabilitates the homes of low income homeowners, particularly the elderly, the disabled, veterans and families with children through several programs. Green Chips' mission parallels the energy conservation services RTSNV also plans to provide in partnership with the US Department of Energy. She explained that RTSNV works with licensed contractors on renovations and retrofits and, as part of this program, property owners will allow access to their utility bills so the energy savings can be monitored.

IVO PLECKO, founder of Piters, LLC, informed the Council that he was working to manufacture solar-powered homes in the City and he encouraged the Council to contact him through the information he provided for the record.

